

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /072 W  
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R 130923Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3151

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1920

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, CZ  
SUBJECT: ORGANIZING FOR MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

REFS A. STATE 148782 B. 76 STATE 37591 C. STATE 159747  
D. 76 PRAGUE 522

1. REFTEL A FROM THE ACTING SECRETARY REQUESTED COMMENTS ON OBJECTIVES OF US MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WITH RESPECT TO OUR HOST GOVERNMENT AS THE DEPARTMENT PREPARES BACKGROUND AND INSTRUCTION CABLES.

2. OUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FLOW--LOGICALLY, WE THINK--FROM THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES: CZECHOSLOVAKIA IS COMPLETELY UNDER THE DOMINATION OF THE SOVIET UNION AND, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, IN NEARLY 30 YEARS HAS ONLY ONCE TAKEN AN ACTION CONTRARY TO SOVIET WILL IN AN INTERNATIONAL BODY: WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER HAJEK PROTESTED AT THE UN IN AUGUST 1968 AGAINST THE SOVIET OCCUPATION OF THIS COUNTRY. SINCE THAT IS TRUE, WE CONSIDER IT MANIFESTLY UNREALISTIC FOR THIS EMBASSY TO REQUEST CZECHOSLOVAK SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITIONS ON ISSUES ON WHICH US AND SOVIET VIEWS ARE CLEARLY OPPOSED.

3. FAILURE TO TAKE THIS SITUATION FULLY INTO ACCOUNT HAS IN THE  
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PAST SOMETIMES MADE IT NECESSARY FOR US TO SEND MESSAGES EXPLAINING WHY WE THINK IT UNDESIRABLE TO CARRY OUT A GENERAL INSTRUCTION ON MULTILATERAL ISSUE. WE WOULD HOPE THIS COULD BE AVOIDED IN THE FUTURE, EITHER THROUGH CLOSER ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF INDIVIDUAL POSTS DURING THE CLEARANCE PROCESS OR THROUGH USE, IN ROUTINE MESSAGES, OF PHRASEOLOGY (E.G. "AS APPROPRIATE") WHICH WOULD ENABLE US TO MAKE ALLOWANCES FOR

LOCAL CONDITIONS WITHOUT OBTAINING SPECIAL PERMISSION EACH TIME TO DO SO. IN THOSE CASES WHERE THE DEPARTMENT HAS DECIDED TO MAKE US VIEWS KNOWN TO ALL MEMBER STATES WHATEVER THE ANTICIPATED REACTION, EMBASSY PRAGUE IS OF COURSE READY TO DO ITS PART.

4. SOME AREAS EXIST, E.G., LOS MATTERS, WHERE US INTERESTS AND THOSE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAKS, IF THEY DO NOT ACTUALLY COINCIDE, AT LEAST CONVERGE. ON THESE ISSUES WE FEEL THE MORE CONSULTATION THE BETTER (REF D), ESPECIALLY AS FRUITFUL CONSULTATIONS CAN SOMETIMES HAVE A SPILL-OVER INTO OTHER AREAS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.

5. ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED PARA 7, REF B, FOLLOW NATURALLY FROM CIRCUMSTANCES OUTLINED ABOVE. FOR A MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION, SEE REF D.

6. MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS AND REPRESENTATIONS TO CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTRY ARE NORMALLY HANDLED BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR (BYRON MORTON), OR BY DCM WHEN LEVEL AND IMPORTANCE OF REPRESENTATION DICTATE.  
FROWICK

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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